

R E M A R K S

The above amendment to claim 14 is supported in the paragraph bridging pages 68 to 69 of the present specification.

It is noted that claim 14 is supported by Fig. 17, wherein the overflow receiver is referred to by numeral 60.

As discussed in the RECORD OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW BY APPLICANTS filed March 31, 2010, during the March 31, 2010 interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner suggested that the applicants consider amending claim 14 to recite a feature which will serve to remove solution from the reservoir to maintain a constant distance between the end of the dripping nozzles and the surface of the solution.

Prior to the above amendment to claim 14, claim 14 recited such a feature suggested by the Examiner, namely, the overflow discharging hole in the circumferential sidewall of the aqueous ammonia solution which serves to remove the solution. More specifically, when the surface of the solution stored in the reservoir rises along the circumferential sidewall to the level at which the hole is formed, the portion of the solution, which would rise above the level of the hole, if the hole was not formed, is discharged through the hole. The distance between the

end of the nozzles and the surface of the solution is thus kept constant.

It is noted that Yoshimuta (JP 5-279043) teaches a settling tank 13 having a circumferential sidewall in which holes for discharging the solution in the tank are formed (see the figure in Yoshimuta). One hole, which will be called a "first hole" hereinafter, is connected with a transport pipe 19, and the other two holes, which will be called "second holes" hereinafter, are connected with the transport tubes 10. The solution stored in the settling tank 13 is discharged through the holes. However, the solution discharged through the first hole is returned to the tank at the bottom thereof, by means of the transport pipe 19 and a circulation pump 18. The solution discharged through the second holes are also returned to the tank by means of the transport tubes 10, pumps 11 and atomizers 7, although some of the discharged solution is consumed on the surface of uranyl nitrate drops to gel it (see paragraph [0027] of the English translation of Yoshimuta which was included in applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed April 17, 2009).


Claim 14 was amended hereinabove to further distinguish it over Yoshimuta.

Yoshimuta does not teach or suggest an overflow receiver for receiving an aqueous ammonia solution overflowing through an overflow discharging hole. Yoshimuta teaches returning all the aqueous ammonia solution discharged from the settling tank through the aforesaid first and second holes formed in the circumferential sidewall thereof, by means of pipes or tubes and pumps.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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